

West Bromwich Neighbourhood Policing Team

Email: westbromtown@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Entries in this publication generally relate to events that have occurred over the previous two weeks. Personal details of individuals related to our dealings are not disclosed, in compliance with the Data Protection Act (1998). If you have any further queries, please email the team, and we will get back to you.

DANGEROUS CANNABIS FARM DISCOVERED YARDS FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL

A cannabis factory has been found directly opposite a primary school in West Bromwich. Situated just a few hundred yards from the police station, officers on patrol stumbled across offenders attempting to load large, leafy plants into the boot of a large car - noticing the distinct smell coming from the plants and the shape of the leaves. After doing a swift double take, the officers realized the plants were exactly what they thought they were, and made to stop the vehicle the offenders were now attempting to flee in. Sadly they were not successful, so officers returned to the premises the car had been parked outside to conduct some enquiries. Officers found the glass rear door to the property had been shattered, and a number of mature cannabis plants had been harvested from the first room. It was also noted that there were several weapons present near the doorways to the property, with a baseball bat, knives and a screwdriver all being found near the entrance and exit points of the building.

A thorough search of the property uncovered an additional room filled with large cannabis plants, just days away from being ready for harvest, along with a room filled with several dozen small plants. Staff from our Cannabis Disposal Team estimate the crop found in this two-bed residential property was worth in excess of £100,000, with a further several thousand pounds of cultivation equipment situated inside the property. Additionally, officers noted that the electricity meter had been bypassed, with dangerously overloaded power banks connected directly to the mains. Due to the significant risks posed by this, the scene was guarded overnight on Sunday until the power company could attend and make the electrics safe. The cannabis farm was dismantled in its entirety on the morning of Monday 31st January, with the plants being removed and destroyed, and the cultivation equipment being rendered inoperable.

The fact that criminals were willing to operate a cannabis farm, filled with hazardous materials and chemicals, not to mention being a serious fire risk just yards away from a primary school is truly sickening – and we are glad that we are able to take the property and contents out of the hands of organized crime.

INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED FOLLOWING HAMMER ATTACK

Officers responding to a domestic violence call on the afternoon of Saturday 29th January discovered a victim with severe injuries to her head and eye, slumped on the floor outside her apartment block, who shortly after officer's arrival experienced a fitting episode. Officers administered first aid until an ambulance could arrive, whilst further units attended the location to apprehend the offender. Officers proceeded to the fourth floor of the building and to the victim's flat, where they successfully apprehended him. The victim was promptly taken to hospital to undergo assessment, and the offender was promptly taken to custody and charged with Section 18 Wounding.

Whilst this is not a job that neighbourhood officers would typically respond to, several members of the team found themselves less than two minutes walking distance from the building at the time where the call came in, and as such rushed to the scene to treat the victim and contain the offender, before further units could safely detain him.



PROMINENT OFFENDER ARRESTED FOR BREACH OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR ORDER

Also on the afternoon of Monday 31st January, officers on patrol around Duchess Parade were drawn into a store on there, after noticing a male standing just inside the entrance acting in a suspicious manner. He had his back turned to officers, but it appeared that he was concealing items from the store within his clothing, so officers moved to investigate. As they entered the store and asked the male to turn around, the surprised shoplifter turned to face officers, only to reveal himself as a well-known local offender who was already wanted for a breach of court order! Unfortunately for him, it did not end there. After being ordered to turn out his pockets, several tins of mackerel were removed from his jacket, after he had concealed them in his clothing with the intent to steal. As such, this gave the grounds for the male to be arrested for shop theft. But it gets better – officers knew that the male was also in breach of his Criminal Behaviour Order – both for being on the town centre outside of his allowed hours, and for entering a store that the order prohibits him from entering. And just for good measure, the male was also in possession of a small quantity of cannabis.

As what proved to be a common theme for this week, this proved to be a fantastic case of being in the right place at the right time!

JOINT OPERATION WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

On the afternoon of Tuesday 1st February, officers from the local Neighbourhood Team, Project Guardian, Safer Travel and British Transport Police conducted a day of action around West Bromwich bus station, following a recent rise in antisocial behaviour and street drinking in the area. Police resources were also joined by staff from West Bromwich Business Improvement District (BID) and Sandwell Council Environmental Protection Officers (EPOs), in order to effectively tackle these offenders. By working together, several of our repeat offenders were served with fixed penalty notices for breaching the Public Space Protection Order covering the area, which prohibits the consumption of alcohol in the streets. Additionally, police officers were also able to conduct a number of intel-based stop searches on several individuals, disperse nuisance youth groups and safeguard a vulnerable male, returning him to his home address.

